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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

At the first meeting of its fourteenth session, on 11 May 2018, the Forum elected Boris Gregu̇ška (Slovakia) as Chair and Javad Momeni (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Vice-Chair of the Forum at its fourteenth session. The Forum is expected to elect one Vice-Chair, to be nominated by each of the group of Western European and other States, the group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the group of African States, at the second meeting of the fourteenth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2019/1)

3. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

(a) Technical discussion and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019–2020, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the fourteenth session will focus on the technical discussion and exchange of experiences on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2019–2020, with the engagement of, and exchange of experiences among, States members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders and the science-policy interface. These discussions will take into account the theme and review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for the period 2018–2019 and the theme of the International Day of Forests in 2019 (Forests and education). Under this item, the Forum will provide its contribution to the follow-up, review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets under consideration by the 2019 high-level political forum. Emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management will also be discussed under this item. In response to the resolution adopted at the thirteenth session of the Forum, a brief progress report on the implementation of the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan is also contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item.

(b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (see General Assembly resolution 71/285), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. In the resolution adopted at its thirteenth session, the Forum encouraged Member States to make announcements of their voluntary national contributions at the fourteenth session of the Forum and to communicate them beforehand to the Forum secretariat. Member States that wish to announce their voluntary national contributions at the fourteenth session may do so under this item. Voluntary national contributions that have been communicated to the secretariat since the thirteenth session of the Forum are contained in the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2019/2).

(c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets

The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for fostering enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards its vision and mission, as well as a framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components. As stipulated in the strategic plan, United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies that address issues that are relevant to forests, within the scope of their mandates, were invited to use the strategic plan as a reference with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic

plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations system organizations and partners may wish to inform the Forum of their planned activities to contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan under this item. The progress report by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on the implementation of its workplan for the implementation of the strategic plan is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2019/2)

4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

(a) Progress on the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, Member States may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their progress with regard to the voluntary national contributions to the Forum at regular intervals determined by the Forum. At its thirteenth session, the Forum adopted the format for initial voluntary national reporting to the Forum on progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan and invited Member States to submit their voluntary national reports to the Forum secretariat by mid-November 2019, for consideration by the Forum at its fifteenth session, in 2020. A progress report on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the thirteenth session of the Forum to support Member States in preparation of the reports is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item.

(b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators

The Forum, in the resolution adopted at its thirteenth session, welcomed the progress made by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in developing a global core set of forest-related indicators aligned with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and acknowledged the value of such a core set of indicators in assessing progress towards achieving the global forest goals and targets. The Forum encouraged member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant bodies to apply those indicators from the global core set which are ready for use and requested the Partnership to continue to develop the remaining indicators and report on progress in that regard to the Forum at its fourteenth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations forest instrument (E/CN.18/2019/3)

5. Means of implementation: progress on the activities and the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and availability of resources

The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, works in close cooperation with Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management by mobilizing, catalysing and facilitating access to financial resources. At its thirteenth session, the Forum adopted the guidelines for the operation of the Network and requested the Forum secretariat to initiate development of the Network's online clearing house mechanism and to undertake additional measures to improve the Network's effectiveness and efficiency

and build capacity in financing sustainable forest management. The note by the Secretariat under this item contains information on key global developments relating to means of implementation, a summary of activities of the Network since the thirteenth session of the Forum and the availability of resources for its operation, as well as a progress report on the intersessional activities carried out by the secretariat in relation to the clearing house function of the Network, and the development of a generic guide and modular training package to assist countries in developing forest financing strategies. The note by the Secretariat also provides an update on the establishment of a Forum secretariat office for the Network in Beijing.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2019/4)

6. Enhancing global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2015/33, decided to improve and strengthen the functioning of the Forum by requesting the Forum, inter alia, to assess the progress in, and make possible proposals on, enhancing policy coherence, dialogue and cooperation on forests, fostering synergies in global forest-related processes and strengthening the common international understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management as set out in the United Nations forest instrument. In accordance with its quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017–2020, the Forum will consider this item at its fourteenth session. The note by the Secretariat under this item provides background information for the discussion by the Forum on the item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on enhancing global forest policy coherence and a common international understanding of sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2019/5)

7. Enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues

(a) Activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in support of the strategic plan and the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020

The note by the Secretariat under this item includes information on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, including its activities in support of the Forum since its thirteenth session. The progress report on the implementation of the workplan of the Partnership will be submitted under item 3 (c).

(b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: implementation of the Paris Agreement

The note by the Secretariat under this item includes information on the progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, interlinkages of forests and climate change, and means of enhancing coherence and synergy between the Paris Agreement and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as ways and means of promoting collaboration between the Forum and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including their respective secretariats.

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity: Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The note by the Secretariat under this item includes information on progress in the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, interlinkages of forests and biodiversity conservation, and means of enhancing coherence and synergy between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as ways and means of promoting collaboration between the Forum and the Convention, including their respective secretariats.

(d) Regional and subregional partners

The note by the Secretariat under this item includes information on the activities of the regional and subregional partners, since the thirteenth session of the Forum, in supporting the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the quadrennial programme of work.

(e) Major groups and other relevant stakeholders

In the resolution adopted at its thirteenth session, the Forum welcomed the joint workplan developed by the major groups to accelerate achievement of the global forest goals and the complementary workplan developed by the children and youth major group, and invited major groups to inform the Forum at its fourteenth session on progress made in implementing the workplans. The Forum also invited major group partners to undertake initiatives to accelerate the contribution of forests to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2019 and to inform the Forum of progress made at its fourteenth session. The note by the Secretariat under this item includes information on these matters for the consideration of the Forum.

(f) Communication and outreach activities

At its thirteenth session, the Forum adopted the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and requested the Forum secretariat to report on progress in implementing the strategy to the Forum at its fourteenth and subsequent sessions and to produce a publication on the global forest goals and targets to be used in outreach. The progress report on the implementation of the communication and outreach strategy is contained in the note by the Secretariat under item 3 (a). Information on the activities related to the International Day of Forests and other communication-related activities undertaken since the thirteenth session of the Forum is contained in the note by the Secretariat under this item.

(g) Cross-sectoral engagement

The enhancement of cross-sectoral engagement in promoting sustainable forest management and the work of the Forum is being discussed, as a cross-cutting issue, under various agenda items of this session.

(h) Information on intersessional activities

Various intersessional activities have been carried out since the thirteenth session of the Forum in relation to items 3, 4, 5 and 6, and information on these activities is contained in the respective documents under each of these items.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on enhanced cooperation, coordination and engagement on forest-related issues (E/CN.18/2019/6)

8. Emerging issues and challenges

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum may decide to include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and that are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session. For the present session, a discussion on item 8, entitled "Emerging issues and challenges", will be held as part of the technical discussion and exchange of experiences under item 3 (a).

9. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

Pursuant to the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum trust fund.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the Forum trust fund (E/CN.18/2019/7)

10. Information on the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs pertaining to the Forum

An oral report will be made on the latest developments with regard to this item during the fourteenth session of the Forum.

11. Dates and venue of the fifteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council the dates and venue of its fifteenth session.

12. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council, for adoption, a provisional agenda for the fifteenth session.

13. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourteenth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.